

# Energy Programs at USDA

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# Rural Development

Over 40 grant, direct loan, and guaranteed loan programs to finance housing, businesses, and infrastructure in rural areas.

## Program Areas:

- **Rural Housing Programs**
- **Rural Utility Programs**
- **Rural Business and Cooperative Programs**

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

# “Old” Energy Programs

- **Section 9006: Provide guaranteed loans and/or grants to farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and/or energy efficiency projects.**
- **Section 9008: Biomass Research and Development—partnership between USDA and DOE**

# “New” Energy Programs



- **Section 9003: Biorefinery Assistance**
- **Section 9004: Repowering Assistance**
- **Section 9005: Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels**
- **Section 9007: Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): Replaces Section 9006**
- **Section 9008: Biomass Research and Development**
- **Section 9009: Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency**
- **Section 9011: Biomass Crop Assistance Program**

# Section 9007

## Rural Energy for America

- **Enhancements from previous program:**
  - **More technologies available (now includes small hydro and wave energy)**
  - **Increases loan guarantees from \$10M to \$25M**
  - **Establishes an energy audit grant program**
  - **Allows grants for feasibility studies**
  - **Increases combined guaranteed loan/grant combination from 50% to 75% of project costs (subject to statutory \$ limits)**

# Section 9008:

## Biomass Research and Development

- **Continuation of previous Section 9008:**
  - **Reduces research topic areas from 4 to 3**
    - **Feedstocks,**
    - **Biofuels and Biobased Products Development,**
    - **Biofuels Development Analysis**

# Section 9003

## Biorefinery Assistance

- **Grants covering up to 30% of the cost of developing and building demonstration-scale biorefineries for producing "advanced biofuels," which essentially includes all fuels that are not produced from corn kernel starch.**
- **Loan guarantees of up to \$250 million for building commercial-scale biorefineries to produce advanced biofuels.**

# Summary

- **An opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on how [USDA] is to implement Sections 9003, 9004, 9005, 9007, 9009, 9011, 9012, and 9013.**
- **Federal grant funding is available—NOFA's coming out in the next couple of months.**
- **However, to get funding, one must submit an application.**

# Contact Information

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